

WILMINGTON, N. C., Jan. 29th, 1850.

MINISTERS' UNION.—We have been somewhat surprised to learn that some of our readers about town have understood our remark that Mr. Reid declined to speak at the meeting at Kenansville, as meaning that that gentleman refused to participate in the proceedings of the meeting, which is not the fact; neither did we intend that our article should be so understood; and we are certain that Mr. Reid did not so understand it.

CORRECTION.—Through inadvertency in copying the proceedings of the Duplin County meeting in last week's Journal, the resolution proposing that a District Convention be held in Wilmington, was made to read the first Monday in March; it should have read the second Monday. We make the correction in order that the delegates from Duplin may not be disappointed.

The Ball in Motion.

There can now be no longer any doubt that the people of North Carolina are fully aroused upon the all-absorbing subject which agitates the Union, and that, come what may, they are determined to stand by their fellow-citizens of the other Southern States. They have taken their position coolly, calmly, and resolutely, and from that position they will not recede. They love, cherish, and revere the Union, holding it more precious than life itself, but even life is not to be purchased at the expense of honor and principle—and the Union, with all its countless blessings and hallowed associations, becomes no longer valuable, when it is sought to be converted into an engine of oppression or an instrument of degradation.

The meeting, which was held in the Court-House, on Tuesday evening last, was characterized by the proper spirit. It was totally irrespective of party. It was free from anything like undue excitement. Its object was to ally sectional feeling, not to arouse it, and the addresses delivered on the occasion also partook of the pervading spirit of the hour. There was no angry or sweeping denunciations of the North, but a clear, simple, and dispassionate statement of the position which affairs have assumed, and of the course which a defence of her own honor and interests requires the South to pursue.

The organization of the meeting will be found reported in the official proceedings. The address of Mr. POTTER, on taking the Chair, was, indeed, "lucid and expressive," and the short speech of Mr. TOOLE was appropriate and to the point. During the absence of the Committee on Resolutions, Mr. REID was called upon, and responded in an eloquent address of some twenty minutes in length, forcibly recounting the long series of insults and aggressions to which the South has been subjected, and showing the necessity of united action at the present time.

After the presentation of the resolutions, Hon. ROBERT STRANGE—who had attended the meeting at the written request of several of our most influential citizens of both parties—being called upon, made a most eloquent address. It was such an address as might have been expected from a Southern statesman and a friend of the Union, and met with the unanimous approval of the meeting; indeed, we have heard but one opinion expressed in regard to it—that it was just what it ought to have been—just what the occasion called for. Judge S. showed that the resolutions were based upon love and respect for the Union. That every one felt that if the threatened aggressions upon Southern rights were carried into effect, no earthly power could prevent a dissolution—no Southern man, not recreant to all honor and principle, could wish to prevent it. That, therefore, it behooved the Southern people, if they desired to preserve the Union intact, to take such action as would tend to prevent the consummation of measures which must inevitably result in dissolution. He believed that nothing but the exhibition of a firm and united front, on the part of the Southern people, could avert this calamity. That it was their imperative duty to adopt some means for the promotion of union and concert of action at this crisis; and that no means appeared so likely to effect that desirable end as the holding of the proposed Convention at Nashville, to be composed of the mildest, calmest, and best men of the South, who could speak authoritatively to the North, and present to them the ultimatum of the South—the final issue upon which the Union must stand or fall. He spoke in terms of enthusiasm of the Union of the States—the glorious recollections of a common country and a common origin—and painted, in vivid colors, the terrible consequences of disunion, which he prayed God to avert, but which he said the South must be prepared to meet, if she were not willing to be sunk into the state of a colony or dependency of the North. He believed that there was yet sufficient love for the Union—sufficient justice and patriotism among the people of the Northern States to repudiate the dictation of fanatics or demagogues, and preserve the constitution by respecting its compromises. He felt that it was a most painful crisis, but he had few fears for the result.

In conclusion, Judge STRANGE took occasion to administer a well-merited rebuke to those demagogues at the South, as well as at the North, who, in order to gain a little petty popularity, are willing to array one section against another, and to denounce every man who does not reside in the same section with themselves. Such men are more dangerous than open enemies. The South is in the minority; her sole reliance is in the constitution. In she, then, to reject with scorn, or treat with cold distrust, the proffered friendship of any man, simply because he happens to reside North of Mason and Dixon's line, and does not entertain the same views on the subject of slavery that she does? Certainly not. The question should not be—Is a man a friend of the South or of the institution of slavery? But is he a friend of the constitution—is he willing to abide by its compromises—is he willing to let us alone? Unquestionably an incalculable amount of injury has been done to the South by the indiscreet or hot-headed zeal of some of its real or pretended friends.

The ball is now in motion—the people have taken their matter in hand—and we feel certain that the meetings held in Duplin and in this County will be responded to throughout the length and breadth of the State. Even those who might, under other circumstances, have entertained doubts in regard to the expediency of holding a Convention, are convinced that since the other States of the South have moved in this matter, it would not do for North Carolina to stand alone, in apparent opposition, and thus strengthen the hands of her enemies.

FARMERS' DEPORT.—We would respectfully call attention to the extensive assortment of Farming Utensils to be had at the Store of Mr. ALEX. McRAE, Jr., South side of Market-street. See advertisement.

SUPERIOR COURT.—An extra term of the Superior Court of New Hanover, has been held in this County during the present week—the Court is now in Session. His honor Judge BAILEY presiding. The civil docket alone is on trial.

MICHIGAN LEGISLATURE.—It is said that an attempt will be made in the Legislature of the State of Michigan, to have the instructions in regard to slavery rescinded. Upon this depends whether Genl. Cass will or will not resign his seat as one of the Senators from that State.

Hon. ROBERT STRANGE—Dear Sir: The undersigned, citizens of the County of New Hanover, feeling a deep and absorbing interest in the question of Southern Rights, and being anxious, in our deliberations for their maintenance and perpetuity, to have the advice and assistance of those in whom the people have placed confidence, and upon whose firmness and moderation we can rely, respectfully request that you will favor the meeting, to be held at the Court-House this evening, with your presence, and with a statement of your views upon the subject before it.

With much respect, we are, dear Sir, yours, &c.,
THOS. H. WRIGHT, W. LATIMER,
JAS. H. DICKSON, OWEN FENNELL,
JAS. T. MILLER, N. N. NIXON,
W. C. BETTENCOURT, N. M. HILL,
MILES COSTIN, JOHN A. DAVIS,
JOHN SWANN.

WILMINGTON, Jan. 29th, 1850.

GENTLEMEN: I have this moment received your very flattering request that I should attend the meeting to be held at the Court-House this evening, on the subject of Southern Rights, and give my views in relation thereto. In reply, I have to express my regret that I have not given to the subject such consideration as would entitle anything I might say to any respect; I will yet do myself the pleasure of attending the meeting, with the hope that I may be spared the necessity of obtruding my undigested thoughts upon its members, but may be permitted to be a mere listener to what may be said by others. At the same time, I am free to say that I consider the subject one of the deepest importance, and that it is now assuming an aspect to call for great deliberation on the part of all the real friends of Southern Rights, and that no man who may be present where the subject is under discussion, ought to be backward in doing all in his power that may tend to prevent rashness on the one hand, or dangerous concession on the other.

Most respectfully, your friend and fellow-citizen,
ROBERT STRANGE.

Dr. T. H. WRIGHT, and others.

Southern Rights Meeting.

WILMINGTON, January 29th, 1850.

The papers of the town having announced that a meeting of the citizens of New Hanover county, without distinction of party, would be held at the Court-House, in this place, this evening, to consider the present critical attitude of affairs in reference to the subject of Slavery—a large and intelligent portion of the citizens, from every part of the county, assembled at the time and place designated.

SAMUEL R. POTTER, Esq., was called to the Chair, and in a lucid and impressive manner explained the object of the meeting.

Dr. THOMAS H. WRIGHT and W. C. BETTENCOURT were requested to act as Secretaries.

Mr. HENRY I. TOOLE having addressed the meeting in an eloquent and forcible speech, moved

That the Chair appoint a Committee of six individuals to prepare and report Resolutions for the consideration of the meeting. The chair appointed Dr. Sterling B. Everitt, David Reid, Esq., Capt. Wm. C. Howard, Col. W. N. Peden, Gen. L. H. Marsteller, and H. I. Toole.

On motion of Dr. EVERITT, the Hon. ROBERT STRANGE was added to the Committee.

The Committee, after a brief absence, submitted through the Chairman, Dr. EVERITT, the following Resolutions:

1. Resolved, That we have witnessed with much anxiety the progress of fanaticism, and political dishonesty at the North, and of excitement at the South, on the subject of slavery.

2. Resolved, That a crisis has arrived, when it becomes necessary for thinking men, at both ends of the Union, to adopt such discreet measures as may avert the consequences likely to flow from this fanaticism, dishonesty, and excitement; or, if they cannot be averted, so to meet them as to diminish, as much as possible, their mischief.

3. Resolved, That the Union of the State is not less dear and important to us politically, than is life individually, and we will, therefore maintain it at every sacrifice, but that of principle.

4. Resolved, That dear and essential as life is to the individual, no brave and virtuous man will consent to hold it at the sacrifice of honor and principle; neither can we yield up principle and honor, even if the maintenance of them should involve the sacrifice of our political and individual existence, in the dissolution of the Union and the bloody consequences likely to flow therefrom.

5. Resolved, That in the hope that it will lead to some peaceful and honorable result for the preservation of the Union; and if that may not be, in any event, to a perfect unanimity of action in the Southern States, we recommend that a convention of Delegates from the several Congressional Districts in this State, be held in Raleigh, on the 20th day of April next, for the purpose of considering this subject, and of appointing two Delegates from the State at large to represent North Carolina in the Convention appointed to be held at Nashville, Tenn., on the first Monday of June next, and that delegates be appointed for each Congressional District in this State, by Conventions held in said Districts, to represent said Districts in the said Convention to be held at Nashville, and in the Convention to be held at Raleigh.

6. Resolved, That fifty Delegates be appointed by the Chairman of this meeting to attend the District Convention to be held in Wilmington, on the second Monday of March next.

Resolved, That the Chairman also be authorized and requested to appoint a Committee of Thirteen to be called a Committee of Safety.

The Resolutions were then received and submitted to the consideration of the meeting.

The Hon. ROBERT STRANGE and DAVID REID, Esq., by able and eloquent argument, sustained the Resolutions, showing that they were based upon motives of justice and love for the Union.

The Resolutions were unanimously adopted. In accordance with the sixth Resolution, the Chair appointed the following delegates to attend the District Convention, to be held in Wilmington, on the second Monday in March next, viz:

Messrs. P. C. Dickinson, Joseph Smith, Owen Holmes, T. D. Meares, Griffith M. McKee, Thos. Loring, Geo. Davis, Stephen P. Polley, John C. Wood, Thos. H. Wright, Nicholas N. Nixon, Edward St. George, Joseph M. For, John Howard, John Leggett, John D. Jones, Benj. Hallett, Jas. Garrison, Thos. H. Williams, Wm. S. Larkins, Reuben Hallett, John Jones, Jas. P. Moore, John McAnulan, Jas. McIntyre, Sam'l Player, Amos Rochelle, John P. Bannerman, Samuel Black, John Shepard, David McIntyre, Isham Armstrong, Norman Lane, Daniel Futrell, Levin Lane, Albert G. Hall, Alex. Lamont, Jas. B. Pigford, Thos. H. Tate, Bryan Newkirk, Jas. Kerr, Geo. Fennell, James Harrell, Edmund A. Hawes, Joel L. Moore, Cornelius Murphy, John Eakins, Wm. S. Pridden, Simon Lewis, and Sylvanus F. Wilson.

The following gentlemen constitute the Committee of Vigilance, viz:

Messrs. John S. James, Peter M. Walker, Edward Kidder, Frederick Sullivan, Jethro Bellard, Levi Hart, Cornelius Myers, Oscar G. Parsley, Henry Nutt, Wm. N. Peden, John C. Bowden, L. H. Marsteller, and Samuel Potter.

Dr. A. J. DeRosier, Jr., submitted the following Resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the Chairman forward a copy of the proceedings of the meeting to our Senators and Representatives in Congress, with a request that they lay them before each house of Congress.

Resolved, That the thanks of this meeting are due and are hereby tendered to the Hon. ROBERT STRANGE, for his able and highly satisfactory address, and that he be requested to furnish a copy thereof for publication.

On motion of T. D. MEARES, Esq., it was

Resolved, That the Chairman be requested to forward copies of these proceedings to the National Intelligencer and Washington Union, with the request that they would publish them; and that Editors be requested to publish the same in the several papers of this State.

The proceedings of the meeting, while they evinced

a devoted attachment to the Union, exhibited a unity of disposition and a firm and solemn resolve to sustain to the letter the spirit of the Resolutions of the Committee.

SAMUEL R. POTTER, Chairman.

T. H. WRIGHT, W. C. BETTENCOURT, Secretaries.

DEEP RIVER.—From a publication made by B. I. HOWZE, Esq., Treasurer of the Cape Fear and Deep River Navigation Company, (in Thursday's Commercial,) we are gratified to learn that the whole line of improvement, from Fayetteville to Hancock's Mill, in Moore county, is under contract, and that bonds have been given for the execution of the work according to the provisions of the charter. It is contemplated to complete the work as far up as Haywood, by next Christmas; and the instalments have been fixed so as to meet the contracts made by the company—punctuality, on the part of the stockholders, will therefore be required.

A CANDIDATE FOR THE PRESIDENCY.—A portion of the Indiana Democracy has nominated Gen. JOSEPH LANE, of that State, as a candidate for the Presidency in 1852. Gen. LANE, it will be remembered, was appointed Governor of the Oregon Territory by President Polk, and recalled by President TAYLOR. He is a native of this State, and has figured successively as the Captain of a flat-boat, and of a steamboat—as a farmer and as a merchant—and finally as a Brigadier General in Mexico, where his daring exploits won him the appellation of the "MARIOS" of the war. Gen. LANE is a man of talents and education, but such a movement is premature. The public mind is too much occupied with a more pressing matter to pay any attention to Presidential making.

Wilmington and Manchester Railroad.

The Cheraw Gazette, in noticing the late efforts of our citizens in aid of this Road, says that "the citizens of Wilmington and vicinity have aided with a liberality above all praise. They have set an example which we hope to see emulated by those interested in the construction of the branch to this place. We know of no community which has made such exertions—such sacrifices to promote the prosperity of the public, as that of Wilmington. Will not such exertions and such sacrifices secure their just reward? We hope and trust they will. Indeed, we feel confident that when the main Road with its branch to this place, is completed, that a stream of prosperity, which will utterly astonish the most sanguine, will flow into her lap."

SOUTH CAROLINA RAILROAD.—The report of the President of the South Carolina Railroad Company, just published, shows the receipts and expenditures of the Road, for the two years ending December 31st, 1848, and December 31st, 1849, respectively, to have been:

Receipts for 1848.....	\$800,073 54
Expenditures do.....	398,802 79

Net profit for 1848.....	\$401,270 75
Receipts for 1849.....	\$892,403 16
Expenditures do.....	463,933 74

Net profit for 1849.....	\$428,469 42
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Showing an increase of net profit over the preceding year to the amount of \$27,198 27.

AN ODD EXPRESSION.—Gov. FISH, in his late message to the Legislature of New York, used the following strange phrase:—"Upon the outbreak of the Asiatic cholera within our State, in pursuance of the authority conferred by an act of the Legislature, passed at the last session, I issued a proclamation on the 5th of June last," &c., thereby plainly intimating that "the disease" broke out "in pursuance of authority conferred by an act of the Legislature." What an atrocious Legislature!

MR. THURSTON, the delegate in Congress from Iowa, drove himself and family out there from Iowa, a few years since, in an ox-team.

SCHOOLS IN NEW YORK.—In New York there are 11,191 public schools, with 778,309 pupils, and 18,939 private schools, with 72,785 pupils; besides 35 schools for colored children, with 4,906 pupils.

GOON.—The Legislature of Pennsylvania has refused by a vote of 46 yeas to 40 nays to pass resolutions instructing the Senators from that State to vote for the Wilmot Proviso. Good for the old KEYSTONE.

POPULATION OF PENNSYLVANIA.—The septennial returns of taxables in each county in Pennsylvania, just been completed, and shows an aggregate of 486,733 taxables, which the Philadelphia Bulletin says is equivalent to a population of 2,677,000.

DEBT OF TEXAS.—It appears from the official report, that the present debt of Texas amounts to about Twelve Millions of Dollars, a sum which her public lands are sufficient to pay more than twice over.

MEDICAL EXAMINER.—We have received from the publishers, Messrs. LINDSAY & BLACKSTONE, of Philadelphia, the January number of this publication, being the first number of the sixth volume. We are not, of course, competent to judge of the merits of a purely professional work of this kind, but from the high standing of its Editor and Contributors, we should suppose that it would afford a valuable record of Medical Science, and as such be highly useful to the active practitioner. Terms, \$3 per annum, in advance.

We are pleased to observe that our contemporary of the Fayetteville Observer virtually takes ground in favor of the sending of delegates to the Southern Convention. In an article upon this subject in the last Observer, after noticing the meeting at Duplin, and the call for a meeting in this county, he says:

"We presume that a meeting will be held in this place during the ensuing Special Term of the Superior Court. It is proper that it should be so. For whatever doubts may be entertained of the usefulness of a Southern Convention, No. Carolina should not be absent from such a one, since it is to be. She may further wise counsels, or assist to defeat rash ones."

Depend upon it, this matter is bound to go through.

Spring Terms of the Superior Court.

The Judges of the Superior Court have arranged to ride the circuits for the Spring term as follows:

1. Edenton,	Judge Ellis,
2. Newbern,	" Bailey,
3. Raleigh,	" Manly,
4. Hillsborough,	" Battle,
5. Wilmington,	" Settle,
6. Salisbury,	" Dick,
7. Morganton,	" Caldwell.

In this, the fifth Judicial district, the terms will commence at the times noted below:

In Moore county on the 21st	February.
"Montgomery " " 28th	"
"Stanly " " 4th	March.
"Anson " " 11th	"
"Richmond " " 18th	"
"Robeson " " 25th	"
"Bladen " " 1st	April.
"Columbus " " 8th	"
"Brunswick " " 15th	"
"New Hanover " " 22d	"
"Sampson " " 29th	"
"Cumberland " " 6th	May.

Chronicle.

FOR CALIFORNIA.—The new Brig "John Dawson," commenced taking in her cargo, consisting of Pitch Pine Lumber, on Wednesday last. She is to sail for California in a few days. Success attend her and her enterprising owner, Mr. MILES COSTIN, in the enterprise. We hope soon to have the pleasure of handling some of the "dust."

JOHN VAN BUREN was married on the 15th ult. John goes for Union.

Thirty-First Congress—First Session.

MONDAY, JANUARY 28, 1850.

SENATE.

Various resolutions and petitions were presented, chiefly of a private character. Mr. Seward presented the resolutions of the Legislature of the State of New York, asking for the passage of a law for giving land, in limited quantities, to actual settlers, and also in favor of setting apart a portion of the public domain for the Hungarian refugees. Ordered to be printed and referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

Mr. Cooper presented a petition of — Crawford, asking to be employed to execute an equestrian statue, in bronze, of Gen. George Washington.

Mr. C. accompanied the memorial with some remarks in favor of its prayer. He spoke of the skill and reputation of the artist, and of the propriety of the proposed work.

The motion to print the memorial was referred to the Committee on Printing.

The Committee on Foreign Relations reported a bill for the relief of the bondsmen of the German Central Government, in the matter of the steamer "United States."

The Special Committee on the census reported a bill for taking the seventh census, which was read twice and made the special order of the day for Thursday at one o'clock.

The Senate took up the order of the day, being the bill for the recapture of fugitive slaves.

Mr. Mason, of Virginia, who originally introduced the bill, addressed the Senate at some length in its favor, showing the constitutional ground upon which it was founded, and the justice and necessity of its enactment. He spoke of the immense loss to which the Southern States, and especially the frontier Southern States, were annually subjected, by the escape of their slaves into the contiguous non-slaveholding States, and the failure of the latter to surrender them as required by the constitution. He spoke of the vexations, annoyances and insults to which a Southern citizen was subjected, who might attempt to recover his property in a free State. He said that unless some law was passed, Maryland, Virginia, and the other border States, would be forced to adopt a system of reprisals. He hoped that this bill would speedily become a law.

Mr. Seward gave notice that he would, at the proper time, propose to amend the bill, by striking out all after the enacting clause, and inserting a series of restrictions and obstructions, which would effectually preclude any possibility of ever enforcing the constitutional provision.

The amendment having been read, Mr. S. moved that it be printed.

Upon this motion, Mr. Foote took occasion to give Seward a scolding, scarcely less severe than that which he administered to him on account of his defence of Webb. He hoped, for the sake of Mr. Seward's reputation, that the amendment would not be printed, for it bore upon the face of it such marks of low demagoguism and pettifoggery craft—such a low disregard of truth and honor—that its publication would be ruinous to the rising hopes of the aspiring Senator from New York. Mr. Foote continued for some time in a strain of bitter irony, to show up Seward, who seems to be his "favorite aversion," as he seldom omits an opportunity to place him in a ridiculous light.

After some little discussion, the Senate went into executive session, and after a short time so spent, adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House was occupied in the reception of petitions and memorials. The only thing of any interest to our readers, which we find in the proceedings, is contained in the following resolutions, for the introduction of which Mr. Disney asked the unanimous consent of the House.

The resolutions were then read for information, as follows:

Whereas, the time has arrived when a just regard for the peace and welfare of the Republic demand not only a clear and accurate definition of the legislative power of the General Government over the people of any Territory which either now belongs to the United States, or hereafter may be acquired by them, but also, that such a definition of that power shall rest as a foundation for the exercise of the power of exclusive legislation over the District of Columbia, as a seat of Government is necessary to the unembarrassed deliberations of Congress, and is obviously required by the dignity and safety of the Government; and whereas, the principles of our institutions demand that, as the Legislature of the District, Congress, with a regard to the national interest, shall obey the law in relation to the District of Columbia, and as no necessary can arise which will demand the sacrifice of either the power of the Government or the people's rights; because they each may be respected by the Government, and as they are hereby instructed to prepare and report to the House, with proper limitations in regard to the territorial extent of each community, a suitable provision for an amendment of the Constitution of the United States, which shall infringe on that instrument an explicit declaration of the foregoing principles as an organic law.

Resolved, That the will of the people of the District of Columbia in relation to the existence of slavery within its limits.

The resolution having been read—

Objections were made to its introduction.

So the resolution was not received.

FIRE IN NEW YORK.—An extensive fire occurred in New York on Saturday last, by which a large Soap manufactory, and 130 other houses in the neighborhood were destroyed. The loss is said to amount to \$300,000, of which the greater part is covered by insurance.

By request, we copy from the Commercial, the following resolutions adopted at a meeting of the subscribers to the Culliton Party which took place at Mozart Hall on Tuesday evening, the 29th ult. No doubt things we done up brown:

Resolved, That the thanks of this meeting be tendered to the worthy hosts of the Carolina Hotel, Messrs. Wood & Fanning, and their able assistant, Mr. Montgomery, for the sumptuous and elegant entertainment served up on the occasion.

Resolved further, That if it be a sample of the Fanning we may get when they Wood up, why then Mr. Montgomery go ahead; because, that "Chicken-Salad" and other "Fitts" can't be beaten in the Old North State, or any State farther north.

MISSOURI.—A writer in the London Daily News thus expresses his opinion of the future of this great State:

Missouri is to the west what the west will become to the rest of the confederacy. Should the Pacific States remain part and parcel of the republic, it will be impossible, for any great length of time, to continue to administer the federal government at Washington. So vast a system must have a more central point around which to revolve. The seat of government will be removed further into the interior—

There are other considerations than that of mere internal convenience which will influence such a movement. In a military point of view, the banks of the Potomac have already been proved to be an insecure position for the capital. On either bank of the Upper Mississippi it would be inaccessible to all the fleets and armies in the world. Everything points to St. Louis as the future capital. Commercially speaking, it is the internal entrepot of the West."

CURE FOR BED BUGS.—Many persons complain of being pestered by bed bugs; but it is easy to avoid the annoyance. On going to bed, strip off your shirt and cover yourself from head to foot with kerosene molasses. Let every part of the body be thickly covered with it. On coming to bite you, the bugs will stick fast in the molasses and you can kill them all in the morning.

General Cass' Speech.

We had intended to have given in the present No. of the Journal, a synopsis of the great constitutional argument against the Wilmot Proviso, delivered last week in the Senate of the United States, by General Cass; but the proceedings of the Southern Rights meeting in this town, have occupied the space which we hoped to devote to that object. We have, however, given a most eloquent and interesting extract from the speech, in which Gen. Cass comments very severely upon certain passages in Mr. Adams' diary, which has just been published. His concluding remarks in this connection do honor to his head and heart as a man, a statesman, and an American citizen. The argument of his speech is close, logical, and we think conclusive. He assumes the ground that the Constitution gives Congress no power of legislation over the territories, and that by the theory of our Government Congress can possess no powers, except such as are specially delegated; and that no implied power can be carried beyond the necessity which creates it. From the absolute necessity of the case, Congress had, with the tacit consent of the people, exercised the power of organizing territorial governments, but this being done, the necessity, and consequently the power, ceased.

The idea that Congress could interfere with the domestic relations, of which slavery is one, General Cass considered on a par with the claim of Great Britain to exercise exclusive jurisdiction over her Colonies. The claim of the British Parliament was regarded as tyranny, and produced the revolution,—in what particular would the claim of the American Congress differ from it? In either case, it was the assertion of the power to bind a people by the laws of a body in whose deliberations they had no voice. He considered the attempt to exercise such power by the passage of the Wilmot Proviso as both unconstitutional and inexpedient. But to the extract:

"While it is admitted that the ordinance of 1787 was 'passed by the old Congress of the United States without authority from the States,' it is contended, not that the clause respecting 'debts and engagements' confirmed it, but that it 'had been tacitly confirmed by the adoption of the present constitution, and the authority given to Congress in it to make needful rules and regulations for the Territory.'"

These are the views bequeathed to us by an eminent citizen, who, after filling the office of President of the United States, was taken away in the midst of his labors, as the ancient warriors fell, with their harness upon them. It has been long known that he kept a diary of passing events, and a portion of this record of daily occurrences has been recently taken from the possession, where it had better been shielded by time, and then exposed to the light of day by a member of his family. How often do the memory of distinguished men, being injured by the zeal of indiscreet friends, who, instead of going back with a garment to cover them, reveal their infirmities to the curiosity of the world? This revelation will add nothing to the claims (and they are many) which the deceased statesman had to the consideration of his countrymen, founded upon his services, his talents, his acquisitions, and his unpeached probity. Strong prejudices, not to say bitter ones, and a temperament often ill-regulated and always excitable, too frequently interfered, especially when men and measures were closely connected, with that calm investigation so essential to the exercise of the duties of a statesman. This contemporaneous record of his feelings and opinions, and his unvarnished traits of character in bold relief, is, indeed, a melancholy proof that a vigorous intellect may be overshadowed by strange aberrations, and rendered useless, and sometimes dangerous, by wayward views, originating in passing impressions, and maintained with characteristic tenacity, and with little respect for the opinions of others.

In this diary, the compromise by which the constitution was established, and without which it could never have been established, is denounced as "the bargain between freedom and slavery," and is pronounced "morally and politically vicious," with various harsh epithets and illogical deductions, little creditable to the judgment of the writer at any time.

At least, at the time that the constitution was in the Government he then occupied, and his acknowledged claims he had to still higher distinctions. This condemnation of the constitution as morally vicious, is left upon record by a statesman who sought and enjoyed the confidence of his country in many stations of high honor and responsibility—in more, indeed, perhaps, than any other man of the past generation; whose services commenced about the commencement of the present century, and continued almost without intermission until his death, terminated by death. At the very time he thus embodied this opinion of the constitution, he was the second officer of the Executive Department of the Government, and became, ere long, the first; and in each of these capacities, as in many a preceding one, he voluntarily assumed the most solemn sanction, the obligation to support this constitution, which was stamped with the charge of moral and political vice. But the document has been given to the country, and, regret it as we may and must, it has already passed into history; and, like all the other materials of which history is composed, it cannot escape the scrutiny, nor will it escape the censure, of an age like this. Nor should it be. Its truth, its honesty, its candor, is bad. The doctrine and the example are bad. That the constitution is a vicious instrument, is an opinion, it seems to me, that no right-minded American can hold. That its honors and emoluments may be sought and enjoyed, and its obligations assumed by him who considers it liable to this grave censure, is certainly not reconcilable with any elevated standard of morality, or of honor; or of the confidence which is placed in him by the people, and which position is held under such circumstances calculated to produce a salutary impression upon the American youth. I am sorry to say there are other positions of this resuscitated paper equally obnoxious to the censure of patriotism and of good taste. How different are its tone and temper from that legacy of true wisdom and patriotism, the Farewell Address—a monument of high moral and political feeling, and of affectionate interest, as well as practical wisdom, such as no other citizen ever bequeathed to his countrymen.

The one appeals to the better feelings of our nature—to be uncommon "name of American"—and bids us hold on "to the unity of Government which constitutes us one people," by all the motives that belong to the past and to the present—by the associations crowded with success, and to common hopes as bright as, in the providence of God, were ever offered to any people. It warns us also of the mischief of sectional prejudices, and of the danger of sectional questions, which "tend to render alien to each other those who ought to be bound together by fraternal affection." And that voice, which now comes to us from the tomb, and speaks in imperious tones to every American heart, when it calls upon us "to free indignantly upon the first dawning of every attempt to alienate one portion of our country from the rest, or to weaken the various ties which now bind together the various parts."

The other—but I will not speak of it as I might well do. Better that it had been entombed, like the ancient Egyptian records, till its language was lost, than have been thus exposed to the light of day, and placed in contact, and that will place in contrast, a few passages from the Farewell Address and from the Diary of Mr. Adams, and close this ungrateful topic with a few remarks: